

Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday June 4, 2009

Attendees:

ABRFC – Billy Olsen, Eric Jones, Mike Pierce
CNRFC – Rob Hartman
NERFC – Rob Shedd
NWRFC – Joe Intermill
NOHRSC –
Deltares – Edwin Welles
OCWWS – Randy Rieman
OHD – Pedro Restrepo, Jon Roe, Joe Gofus, Chris Dietz, Mark Fresch, Dan Stein (Wyle)

Pre-reading:

- None

1. Agenda items for workshop June 24-26

Suggested agenda items:

- Training for CAT-II - role of OHD, OCWWS, Deltares, CAT, others. Format and content. Suggestions based on experiences to date.
- Forcings – agreed to report plans and progress to CAT-II in September. Must also discuss a strategy for temperature grids; it's quite likely some CAT-II offices won't be able to use locally generated grids..... We must come up with some viable alternatives.
- Post-BOC – suggestions for a requirements process based on best practices from BOC (interim until CHPS completely integrated into AWIPS baseline management process).
 - Possible CHPS “development committee”?
 - Related topics: increased leverage of new CHPS capabilities to “plug-and-play”; support contract with Deltares.
- Configuration Manager tool – description of what's there, what's coming, what's still needed. Make sure we can adequately address configuration version control for individual RFCs. Need documented instructions for use.
- EVS – a demo/presentation of a CHPS-based EVS will be provided by HSMB/HEP (Demargne, Brown). EVS development activities/status will now be reported at CHPS workshops, with increasing focus as this science gets closer to CHPS operations.
- CHPS Software Installation process – Deltares to describe plans and enhancements. RandyR to describe the final directory structure. [RandyR agreed to discuss with Frederik directory structures for the installation scripts. Deltares will request permission to log into the CAT RFC systems, to check on CHPS file permissions. First phase of improved installation script will appear in June release; final will appear in September release.]

- Documentation – what we have, what’s in progress, what’s still needed from Deltares, OHD, and OCWWS.
- Calibration – latest status, perhaps some screen shots. HSEB will make sure the CHPS calibration team sees the information before we present at the workshop. [Calibration remains a lower priority for HSEB than BOC-II models, migration support, etc.]
- SAT review – results from previous week’s testing at OHD, particularly the IFD.
- Update from CAT on their RFC’s progress with migration
- Performance – status update, present plans to improve.
 - Current progress report: “tiger team” has been formed with HSEB and Deltares. HSEB has just applied additional resources. Team is meeting weekly, and aggressively investigating performance problems and possible solutions. Although some significant improvements have been seen, there’s still quite a way to go before we can approach the CAT to determine if performance is acceptable.
- Operational Test & Evaluation (OT&E) – need to frame up the overall approach during the workshop. Some initial discussion:
 - National directive for OT&E exists; need to ensure CHPS is meeting NWS mandates. Not feasible to specify one single approach for all RFCs. Any national OT&E plan would describe SAT, to which the Hydro program has devoted significant resources. The rest is a local RFC responsibility.
 - Cannot address hydro science test and acceptance criteria at a national level; RFCs do need individual plans to validate the hydrology.
 - Note that there’s an I&I component to this.
- Operational support – status, plans
 - Current status: process could definitely use improvement! Buddy visits and other leave have made the situation worse recently.
 - CNRFC has been frustrated by some glitches recently (e.g., needed to punch segs again, confusion with software release version, updated migration scripts caused some re-work).
 - ABRFC reported migration scripts don’t seem as forgiving as they used to be; also as enhancements are made they pick up new problems that require extra work. Suggestions for more automation have been provided to Micha.
 - NWRFC has no unresolved issues. Suggestion that someone always acknowledge when they have received/are working on an issue. At the moment we don’t have a trouble ticket mechanism. Chris mentioned a potential bug tracking feature for OHD software already available via CasaNOSA.
 - Deltares and OHD request that RFC staff always cc. Edwin when asking Micha to do any enhancements, so Deltares can more effectively manage the effort. NWRFC noted they have also recently asked Micha to add a feature to FEWS to generate a weighted MAP for CHPS.
 - Acknowledged the need for release notes.

Action: HSEB to ensure screen shots for the new CHPS-based Calibration tool are distributed to the calibration team before presentation to the CAT workshop.

Action: Chris and Edwin to check minutes from March workshop to see what we agreed would be discussed at the June workshop; include these topics in an agenda

2. Upcoming HIC meeting in July

In light of recent “buddy” visits and status briefings do we really need a presentation on CHPS? Perhaps not a presentation, but a forum to discuss buddy perspective: how is the information sharing process working so far? What’s the perceived level of enthusiasm? What are some longer range plans at the RFCs for CHPS?

Might also be useful to share with all HICs the feedback received from buddy visits.

Doesn’t appear that OHD needs to take the lead on this agenda item. As an aside no one has seen an agenda yet.

Action: none.

3. SAT the week of June 15

Start at noon on Monday.

CNRFC won’t be able to send a rep. ABRFC, NERFC, and NWRFC will attend. ABRFC’s rep will be Mike Pierce.

Action: none.

4. Summary of MBRFC buddy visit

Very positive – noticed some relief that features never available in IFP before will now be part of CHPS. Some new thinking emerged concerning different ways of doing forecasting. Two “cool” comments heard from the audience!

Feedback: suggest we provide 2 demos instead of 1, in order to cover both shifts properly. In response to this Peter agreed to provide a second demo in the afternoon after the meeting was over, before leaving MBRFC. Edwin pointed out that we could also schedule a web-based demo for staff from any RFC who missed the original demo during their buddy visit.

Change to instructions for initial configurations – NWRFC presentation revealed some extra suggestions. JoeI will email his presentation to Edwin.

Action: JoeI to email his MBRFC migration presentation to Edwin; Deltares to add the extra information.

Next meeting: Thursday June 11 2009 at 11:00 am EDT